

Commissioners recommended an international dam and reservoir, approved by Mexico, but under consideration by this Government. Pending these questions it is necessary to extend the life of the Commission, which expires December 23 next.

The coronation of the young Queen of the Netherlands will be the occasion of fitting congratulations. The claim of Victor H. McCord against Peru, which for a number of years has been pressed by this Government, and has on several occasions attracted the attention of the Congress, has been satisfactorily adjusted. A protocol was signed May 17, 1898, by which the amount to be awarded was submitted to the Chief Justice of Canada as sole arbitrator. His award sets the indemnity due the claimant at \$10,000.

THE PERUVIAN TREATY.
The Government of Peru has given the prescribed notification of its intention to abrogate the treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation concluded with this country August 31, 1887. As that treaty contains many important provisions necessary to the maintenance of commerce and good relations, which could with difficulty be replaced by the negotiation of renewed provisions within the brief twelve months intervening before the treaty terminates, I have invited suggestions by Peru as to the particular provisions it is desired to annul, in the hope of reaching an arrangement whereby the remaining articles may be provisionally saved.

His Majesty the Czar having announced his purpose to raise the Imperial Russian mission at this capital to the rank of an embassy, I have been authorized to inform the Russian Ambassador in the capacity of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Russian Ambassador to this country has since presented his credentials.

THE CZAIR'S DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL.
The proposal of the Czar for a general reduction of the vast military establishments that weigh so heavily upon many peoples in time of peace was communicated to this Government, with an earnest invitation to be represented in the conference which it is contemplated to assemble with a view to discussing the means of accomplishing so desirable a result. His Majesty was at once informed of the cordial sympathy of this Government with the principle involved in his exalted proposal and of the readiness of the United States to take part in the conference. The active military force of the United States, as measured by our population, territorial area and taxable wealth, is, and under any conceivable prospective conditions must continue to be, in time of peace so conspicuously less than that of the armies of the Russian Empire, that the appeal is especially addressed, that the question can have for no practical importance save as marking an auspicious step toward the betterment and goodwill among nations. In this connection, the Russian proposal is especially addressed, that the question can have for no practical importance save as marking an auspicious step toward the betterment and goodwill among nations. In this connection, the Russian proposal is especially addressed, that the question can have for no practical importance save as marking an auspicious step toward the betterment and goodwill among nations.

The claims of owners of American sealing vessels for seizure by Russian cruisers in Bering Sea are being pressed to a settlement. The equities of the case justify the expectation that a measure of reparation will eventually be accorded in harmony with precedent and in the light of the proved facts.

The recommissioning of a ship in my special message of April 27 last is renewed, that appropriation be made to reimburse the master and owners of the Russian bark Hans for wrongful seizure by the Russian Government in February, 1896, by officers of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. The papers accompanying my said message make out a most meritorious claim, and justify the Government in which it has been presented by the Government of Russia.

SAMOAAN AFFAIRS.
Malletta Laupera, King of Samoa, died on August 22 last. According to Article I of the General Act of Berlin, "his successor shall be duly elected according to the laws and customs of Samoa."

Arrangements having been agreed upon between the signatories of the general act for the return of Mataafa and the other exiled Samoan chiefs, they were brought from Jaluit by a German war vessel and landed at Apia on September 18 last.

Whether the death of Malletta and the return of his old-time rival, Mataafa, will add to the undesirable complications which the executive of the general act has heretofore developed, remains to be seen. The efforts of this Government will, as heretofore, be addressed toward a harmonious and exact fulfillment of the terms of the international engagement to which the United States is a party.

The check claim against Spain, after some five years of controversy, has been adjusted by arbitration, under an agreement signed July 6, 1897, an award of \$10,000,000. The check, \$97,718, with release of the check estate from mortgage claims, having been rendered March 21, 1898, in favor of the claimant, by the arbitrator, Sir Nicholas John Hannen, British Chief Justice of the Admiralty.

An envoy from Spain has been accredited to this Government and has presented his credentials.

GENEVA ARTICLES IN NAVAL WAR.

Immediately upon the outbreak of the war with Spain, the Swiss Government, fulfilling the high mission it has deservedly assumed as the patron of the International Red Cross, proposed to the United States and Spain that they should severally recognize and carry into execution, as a *modus vivendi*, during the continuance of hostilities, the additional articles proposed by the international conference of Geneva, October 20, 1864, extending the effects of the existing Red Cross convention of 1864 to the conduct of naval war. Following the example set by France and Germany in 1870 in adopting a *modus vivendi*, and in view of the accession of the United States to those additional articles in 1882, although the exchange of ratifications thereof still remain unexecuted, the Swiss proposal was promptly and cordially accepted by us and simultaneously by Spain.

This Government feels a keen satisfaction in having thus been enabled to testify its humanity to the progress of the world, and in the midst of the clash of war, and it is to be hoped that the extension of the Red Cross convention to hostilities by sea as well as on land may become an accomplished fact through the general promulgation of the additional naval Red Cross articles by the maritime powers now parties to the convention of 1864.

The important question of the claim of Switzerland to the perpetual neutrality of the Alpine States of Switzerland has not made any hopeful progress toward a solution, and controversies in this regard still continue.

CLAIMS AGAINST TURKEY.

The newly accredited Envoy of the United States to the Ottoman Porte carries instructions looking to the disposal of matters in controversy with Turkey for a number of years. He is especially charged to press for a just settlement of our claims for indemnity by reason of the destruction of the property of American missionaries resident in that country during the Armenian troubles of 1895, as well as for the recognition of other claims of equal justice.

He is also instructed to seek an adjustment of the dispute growing out of the refusal of Turkey to recognize the acquired citizenship of Ottoman-born persons naturalized in the United States since 1869 without prior imperial consent, and in the same general relation he is directed to endeavor to bring about a solution of the question which has more or less acutely existed since 1870 concerning the jurisdictional rights of the United States in matters of criminal procedure and punishment under Article IV of the Treaty of 1830. This latter difficulty grows out of a verbal difference, claimed by Turkey to be essential, between the original Turkish text and the promulgated translation. After more than a year of negotiation, the matter of a Consul of this country to Erzerum, he has received his exequatur.

THE VENEZUELA ARBITRATION.

The arbitral tribunal appointed under the treaty of February 2, 1897, between Great Britain and Venezuela, to determine the boundary line between the latter and the colony of British Guiana, is to convene at Paris during the present month. It is a source of much gratification to this Government to see the friendly resort of arbitration applied to the settlement of this controversy, not alone because of the earnest part we have had in bringing about the result, but also because the two members named on behalf of Venezuela, Mr. Chief Justice Fuller and Mr. Justice Brewer, chosen from our highest court, appropriately testify the continuing interest we feel in the definitive adjustment of

the question according to the strictest rules of justice. The British members, Lord Herschell and Sir Richard Collins, are jurists of no less exalted repute, while the fifth member and president of the tribunal, Mr. F. De Martens, has earned a world-wide reputation as an authority upon international law.

The claim of Felipe Scandella against Venezuela for arbitrary expulsion and injury to business has been ordered by the arbitration tribunal, and the order of expulsion and by the payment of the sum of \$16,000.

THE BUREAU OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

I have the satisfaction of being able to state that the Bureau of American Republics, created in 1890 as the organ for promoting commercial intercourse and fraternal relations among the countries of the Western Hemisphere, has become a more efficient instrument of the wise purposes of its founders, and is receiving the cordial support of the contributing members of the international union which are actually represented in its board of management. A commercial directory, in two volumes, containing a mass of statistical matters descriptive of the various countries has been printed in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, and a monthly bulletin published in these four languages and distributed in the Latin-American countries, as well as in the United States, has proved a valuable medium for the interchange of information touching the varied interests of the international union.

During the last year the important work of collecting information of practice, through the American Institute of Consular Officers, has been steadily advanced, and, in order to lay such data before the public with the least delay, the practice was begun in January, 1898, to issue the annual reports from day to day as they are received by the Department of State. It is believed that for promptitude, as well as fulness of information, the service thus supplied to the commercial and manufacturing community will be found to show sensible improvement and will be found to merit the liberal support of Congress.

PRIVATE PROPERTY AT SEA IN WAR.

The experiences of the last year bring forcibly home to us a sense of the burdens and the waste of war. We desire, in common with most civilized nations, to reduce to the lowest possible point the damage sustained in time of war by peaceful trade and commerce. It is true we may suffer in such cases less than other communities, but all nations are damaged more or less by the state of uneasiness and apprehension or less by an outbreak of hostilities thrown upon the entire commercial world. It should be our object, therefore, to minimize, so far as practicable, this inevitable loss and disturbance. This purpose can probably best be accomplished by an international agreement to regard all private property at sea as exempt from capture or destruction by the forces of belligerent Powers. The United States Government has for many years advocated such a policy, and in the present year has renewed its efforts to bring it to a successful issue. I therefore suggest for your consideration that the United States should, in the event of a maritime war, with the governments of the principal maritime Powers with a view of incorporating into the permanent law of civilized nations the principle of the exemption of all private property from capture or destruction by belligerent powers.

THE GOVERNMENT'S RECEIPTS.

The Secretary of the Treasury reports that the receipts of the Government from all sources during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1898, including \$64,751,223 received from the sale of Pacific railroads, amounted to \$405,321,335, and its expenditures to \$438,368,582. There was collected from customs \$149,575,092, and from internal revenue \$170,900,041. Our dutiable imports amounted to \$224,635,470, a decrease of \$28,156,690 over the preceding year, and \$201,414,735, a decrease of the preceding year of \$90,522,529. Internal revenue receipts exceeded those of the preceding year by \$24,212,067.

The total tax collected on distilled spirits was \$25,544,969; on manufactures, \$36,239,000; on liquor, \$39,515,421. The amount of merchandise during the year amounting to \$1,231,482,330, an increase of \$180,488,774 from the preceding year.

A DEFICIENCY ESTIMATED.

It is estimated upon the basis of present revenue laws that the receipts of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1899, will be \$577,874,647, and its expenditures \$609,874,647, resulting in a deficiency of \$112,000,000.

On the 1st of December, 1898, there was held in the Treasury gold coin amounting to \$188,441,547, gold bullion amounting to \$138,502,545, silver bullion amounting to \$93,329,250 and other forms of money amounting to \$451,963,981.

On the same date the amount of money of all kinds in circulation was \$1,890,875,594, an increase for the year of \$165,794,966. Estimating our population at 75,194,000 at the time mentioned, the per capita circulation was \$25.16, as compared with \$24.36 at the Treasury gold bullion amounting to \$138,502,545.

THE NATIONAL CREDIT STRENGTHENED.

The provisions made for strengthening the resources of the Treasury in connection with the war have given increased confidence in the purpose and power of the Government to maintain the highest standard and have established more firmly than ever the National credit at home and abroad. A marked evidence of this is found in the inflow of gold to the Treasury. Its net gold holdings on November 1, 1898, were \$230,885,162, as compared with \$133,573,147 on November 1, 1897, and an increase of net cash of \$207,756,100, November 1, 1897, to \$300,228,275, November 1, 1898. The present ratio of net Treasury gold to outstanding Government liabilities, including United States notes, Treasury bonds, and other securities, is 100 to 100, as compared with 100 to 100 on November 1, 1897, and 100 to 100 on November 1, 1896, as compared with 100 to 100 on November 1, 1895.

GOLD FOR PAPER.

I renew so much of my recommendation of December, 1897, as follows: That when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold and are redeemed in gold such notes shall be kept and set apart and only paid out in exchange for gold. This is an obvious duty. If the holder of the United States note prefers the gold and gets it from the Government he should not receive back from the Government a United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the Government issues an interest-bearing debt to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes, a non-interest-bearing debt. Surely it should not pay them out again except on demand and for gold. If they are put out in any other way they may return to be redeemed in gold, and other bond issue to be redeemed in gold, and interest-bearing debt to redeem a non-interest-bearing debt.

This recommendation was made in the belief that such provisions of law would insure to a greater degree the safety of the present standard, and better protect our currency from the dangers to which it is subjected from a disturbance in the general business conditions of the country.

In my judgment the present condition of the Treasury amply justifies the immediate enactment of the legislation proposed. The gold, also, under which a portion of the gold holdings should be placed in a trust fund from which greenbacks should be redeemed upon presentation of the gold, and the gold should not thereafter be paid out except for gold.

It is not to be inferred that other legislation relating to our currency is not required, or that the present recommendation is not a preliminary step to a more complete reorganization of the currency. It is a preliminary step to a more complete reorganization of the currency. It is a preliminary step to a more complete reorganization of the currency.

A MARITIME POLICY.

The annexation of Hawaii and the changed relations of the United States to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines resulting from the war compel the prompt adoption of a maritime policy by the United States. There should be established regular and frequent steamship communication, encouraged by the United States, under the American flag, with the newly acquired islands. Spain furnished to its colonies, at an annual cost of about \$2,000,000, of

steamship lines communicating with a portion of the world's markets, as well as with trade centers of the home Government. The United States will not undertake to do less. It is our duty to furnish the people of Hawaii with facilities, under National control, for their export and import trade. It will be conceded that the present situation calls for legislation which shall be prompt and effective.

The part which American merchant vessels and their seamen performed in the war with Spain demonstrates that this service, in both peace and in the line of defense, is both patriotic and profitable, and should be encouraged in every constitutional way. Details and methods for the accomplishment of this purpose are discussed in the report of the Committee on Commerce, and the attention of Congress is respectfully invited.

THE YELLOW FEVER.

In my last annual Message I recommended that Congress authorize the appointment of a commission for the purpose of making systematic investigations with reference to the cause and prevention of yellow fever. This matter has acquired an increased importance as a result of the military occupation of the island of Cuba, and the commercial intercourse between this island and the United States which we have every reason to expect. The sanitary problems connected with our new relations with the island of Cuba, and the acquisition of Porto Rico are no less important than those relating to finance, commerce and administration. It is my earnest desire that these problems may be considered by competent experts and that every effort may be done which the most recent advances in sanitary science can offer for the protection of the health of our soldiers exposed to islands and of our citizens exposed to the importation of yellow fever. I therefore renew my recommendation that the authority of Congress may be given and a suitable appropriation authorized to employ a commission of experts to be appointed for the purpose indicated.

INCREASE OF THE REGULAR ARMY.

Under the act of Congress approved April 26, 1898, authorizing the President in his discretion, "under a declaration of war by Congress, or a declaration by Congress that the Regular Army to the maximum of 62,000, authorized in said act."

There are now in the Regular Army 57,802 officers and men. In said act it was provided "that at the end of any war in which the United States may become involved the Army shall be reduced to a peace basis by the transfer in the same arm of the service or absorption by promotion or honorable discharge, under such regulations as the Secretary of War may establish, of all supernumerary commissioned officers and the honorable discharge or transfer of supernumerary enlisted men; and nothing contained in this act shall be construed as authorizing the permanent enlistment of the commissary corps or of enlisted force of the Regular Army beyond that now provided by the law in force prior to the passage of this act, except as may be increased by twenty-five majors provided for in said act."

The importance of legislation for the permanent increase of the Army is therefore manifest, and the recommendation of the Secretary of War for the increase of the Regular establishment. This will be only an act of justice, and will be much appreciated by the brave men who left their homes and employments to help the country in this war.

THE PACIFIC RAILROADS.

In my last annual Message I stated: "The Union Pacific Railway, mail line, was sold under the decree of the United States Court for the District of Nebraska, on the 1st and 2d of November of this year. The amount due the Government consisted of the principal of the subsidy bonds, \$27,236,512, and accrued interest thereon, \$31,211,715, making the total indebtedness \$58,448,227.55. The bid at the sale covered the first mortgage lien and the entire mortgage claim of the Government, principal and interest."

This left the Kansas Pacific case uninclosed. By a decree of the Court in that case an upset price for the property was fixed at a sum of \$2,000,000. Upon the 1st of November, 1898, the Government bid \$2,000,000, and the property was sold to the Government. The Government was postponed first to December 15, 1897, and later, upon the application of the United States, was postponed to the 16th day of January, 1898. The interests of the Government required that an effort should be made to obtain a larger sum, I directed the Secretary of the Treasury, under the act passed March 3, 1897, to make a bid for the property to the persons entitled to receive the same the amounts due upon all prior mortgages upon the eastern and middle divisions of said railroad out of any moneys appropriated by the Government for that purpose. Whereupon the Attorney-General prepared a petition to be presented to the Court, offering to redeem said prior liens in such manner as the Court might direct, and the Government was postponed to the 16th day of January, 1898. The interests of the Government required that an effort should be made to obtain a larger sum, I directed the Secretary of the Treasury, under the act passed March 3, 1897, to make a bid for the property to the persons entitled to receive the same the amounts due upon all prior mortgages upon the eastern and middle divisions of said railroad out of any moneys appropriated by the Government for that purpose. Whereupon the Attorney-General prepared a petition to be presented to the Court, offering to redeem said prior liens in such manner as the Court might direct, and the Government was postponed to the 16th day of January, 1898. 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